IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 21-24 have been amended as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A recording medium comprising:

a plurality of pieces of information stored hierarchically; and

various pieces of retrieval information so related to said plurality of pieces of information

pieces of information as to be used for acquiring pieces of information belonging to lower layers of

hierarchy.

Claim 2 (original): The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein

said information is map information.

Claim 3 (original): The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein

said pieces of retrieval information correspond to various retrieval forms to be used to prompt

a user to select the piece of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy by means of input

operations and adapted to acquire any of the retrieval forms.

Claim 4 (original): The recording medium according to claim 3, wherein

said retrieval forms include a list form for displaying a list of pieces of information belonging

to lower layers of hierarchy in order to prompt the user to select any of said pieces of information

and an input plate form for prompting the user to input a specific piece of information included in

said pieces of information in order to select a piece of information belonging to a lower layer of

hierarchy.

Claim 5 (original): The recording medium according to claim 4, wherein

said information is map information; and

said list form is designed to display a list of proper names of the areas contained in the map

information.

Claim 6 (original): The recording medium according to claim 4, wherein

said information is map information; and

said input plate form includes at least a letter template for specifying and inputting at least

one of the Japanese alphabet letters or the English alphabet letters to be used to input information

on the proper name of an area contained in the map information or a numeric keypad template for

inputting proper numerical information relating to the house-number.

Claim 7 (original): An information retrieving device comprising:

a reading section removably carrying a recording medium hierarchically storing pieces of

information and adapted to read information recorded on the recording medium as defined in claim 1;

a retrieval information acquiring section for acquiring pieces of retrieval information stored on said recording medium as a result of reading operation of the reading section;

a retrieval form acquiring section for acquiring information on retrieval forms related to the acquired pieces of retrieval information and adapted to prompt a user to select pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy by means of input operations; and

an information selecting section adapted to recognize the pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy and selected as a result of the input operations using the retrieval forms contained in the acquired retrieval form information and acquire said pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy in response to the reading operation of said reading section.

Claim 8: (original): The information retrieving device according to claim 7, further comprising:

a display device adapted to display various pieces of information; and

a display control section for causing said display device to display retrieval forms according to the information on retrieval forms acquired by said retrieval form acquiring section and adopted to prompt to the user to select said pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy by means of input operations.

Claim 9 (original): An information retrieving device for retrieving and acquiring a plurality of pieces of information stored hierarchically in a memory section, comprising:

a retrieval information acquiring section for acquiring various pieces of retrieval information related to said pieces of information in order to acquire pieces of information stored in said memory section and belonging to lower layers of hierarchy;

a retrieval form acquiring section for acquiring information on retrieval forms related to the acquired pieces of retrieval information and adapted to prompt a user to select pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy by means of input operations; and

an information selecting section adapted to recognize the pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy and selected as a result of the input operations using the retrieval forms contained in the acquired retrieval form information and acquire corresponding pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy.

Claim 10 (original): The information retrieving device according to claim 9, wherein said memory section stores retrieval information so as to be rewritable to other retrieval information on different retrieval forms.

Claim 11 (original): The information retrieving device according to claim 9, wherein said memory section stores pieces of information having a data structure in which the pieces of information are related to each other in such a way that a piece of information can be selected by using any of various retrieval forms.

Claim 12 (original): The information retrieving device according to claim 9 wherein

said retrieval forms include a list form adapted to display a list of pieces of information

belonging to a lower layer of hierarchy and prompt the user to select one of pieces and an input plate

form adapted to prompt the user to input proper information of one of the pieces contained in said

information in order to select the corresponding piece of information belonging to the lower layer

of hierarchy.

Claim 13 (original): The information retrieving device according to claim 9, wherein

said information is map information.

Claim 14 (original): The information retrieving device according to claim 12, wherein

said information is map information; and

said list form displays a list of proper names of the areas contained in the map information.

Claim 15 (original): The information retrieving device according to claim 12, wherein

said information is map information; and

said input plate form includes at least a letter template for specifying and inputting at least

one of the Japanese alphabet letters or one of the English alphabet letters to be used to input

information on the proper name of an area contained in the map information or a numeric keypad

template for inputting proper numerical information relating to the house-number.

Claim 16 (original): The information retrieving device according to claim 9, further comprising:

a display device adapted to display various pieces of information; and

a display control section for causing said display device to display retrieval forms according to the information on retrieval forms acquired by said retrieval form acquiring section and adopted to prompt to the user to select said pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy by means of input operations..

Claim 17 (original): An information retrieving system comprising:

a memory section hierarchically storing a plurality of pieces of information; and

an information retrieving device defined in claim 9 and connected to the memory section by way of a network to retrieve and acquire information stored in said memory section.

Claim 18 (original): An information retrieving system comprising:

a memory section hierarchically storing a plurality of pieces of information;

a terminal unit having an input section for specifying and inputting various pieces of information by input operations and a display device adapted to display various pieces of information; and

a server unit having a memory section connected to the terminal unit by way of a network so as to be able to transmit and receive various pieces of information and hierarchically storing a plurality of pieces of information, a retrieval information acquiring section for acquiring various

pieces of retrieval information related to said pieces of information in order to acquire pieces of information stored in said memory section and belonging to lower layers of hierarchy, a retrieval form acquiring section for acquiring information on retrieval forms related to the acquired pieces of retrieval information and adapted to prompt a user to select pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy by means of input operations, a display control section for causing the display device of the terminal unit to display the acquired retrieval form and an information selecting section adapted to recognize the pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy and selected as a result of the input operations using the retrieval forms displayed on the display device and display corresponding pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy to the display device.

Claim 19 (original): An information retrieving method comprising:

reading various pieces of retrieval information contained in the pieces of information stored hierarchically in a recording medium as defined in claim 1 and adapted to be used to acquire pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy;

acquiring various retrieval forms related to the read pieces of retrieval information so to be used to prompt a user to select pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy by means of input operations; and

recognizing the pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy and selected as a result of the input operations using the retrieval forms and acquiring corresponding pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy from said recording medium.

Claim 20 (original): An information retrieving method for retrieving and acquiring a plurality of pieces of information hierarchically stored by an arithmetic section comprising:

acquiring various pieces of retrieval information related to said pieces of information so as to be used to acquire pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy;

acquiring retrieval form information on various retrieval forms related to the acquired pieces of retrieval information so to be used to prompt a user to select pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy by means of input operations; and

recognizing the pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy and selected as a result of the input operations using the retrieval forms of the acquired retrieval form information and acquiring corresponding pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy.

Claim 21 (currently amended): An information retrieving program for causing an arithmetic section to execute an information retrieving method ~~as defined in claim 19~~, the method comprising:

reading various pieces of retrieval information contained in the pieces of information stored hierarchically in a recording medium as defined in claim 1 and adapted to be used to acquire pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy;

acquiring various retrieval forms related to the read pieces of retrieval information so to be used to prompt a user to select pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy by means of input operations; and

recognizing the pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy and selected as a result of the input operations using the retrieval forms and acquiring corresponding pieces of

information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy from said recording medium.

Claim 22 (currently amended): An information retrieving program for causing an arithmetic section to execute an information retrieving method ~~as defined in claim 20~~ for retrieving and acquiring a plurality of pieces of information hierarchically stored by an arithmetic section, the method comprising the steps of:

acquiring various pieces of retrieval information related to said pieces of information so as to be used to acquire pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy;

acquiring retrieval form information on various retrieval forms related to the acquired pieces of retrieval information so to be used to prompt a user to select pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy by means of input operations; and

recognizing the pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy and selected as a result of the input operations using the retrieval forms of the acquired retrieval form information and acquiring corresponding pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A recording medium readably storing an information retrieving program ~~as defined in claim 21~~ for causing an arithmetic section to execute an information retrieving method, the method comprising:

reading various pieces of retrieval information contained in the pieces of information stored hierarchically in a recording medium as defined in claim 1 and adapted to be used to acquire pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy;

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acquiring various retrieval forms related to the read pieces of retrieval information so to be used to prompt a user to select pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy by means of input operations; and

recognizing the pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy and selected as a result of the input operations using the retrieval forms and acquiring corresponding pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy from said recording medium so as to be read by an arithmetic section.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A recording medium readably storing an information retrieving program ~~as defined in claim 22~~ for causing an arithmetic section to execute an information retrieving method for retrieving and acquiring a plurality of pieces of information hierarchically stored by an arithmetic section, said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring various pieces of retrieval information related to said pieces of information so as to be used to acquire pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy;

acquiring retrieval form information on various retrieval forms related to the acquired pieces of retrieval information so to be used to prompt a user to select pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy by means of input operations; and

recognizing the pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy and selected as a result of the input operations using the retrieval forms of the acquired retrieval form information and acquiring corresponding pieces of information belonging to lower layers of hierarchy so as to be read by an arithmetic section.